

GLP's address on sustainable society issues through land science

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GLP (Global Land Programme), focusing on the coupled human-environmental systems under changing environments, is an international research platform to promote research programs in land (change) science towards Future Earth. Land science covers everything from coastal areas to high mountain regions, and from small settlements/communities to mega-cities. The research planning of the GLP was built not only on the extensive heritage of the IGBP's and IHDP's global networks of scientists, data and largely disciplinary understanding, but also on the GCTE and LUCCE projects. Now, GLP concerns all of the eight Key Focal Challenges and all of the UN's 17 SDGs.

GLP has IPO in Bern, Switzerland, and seven Nodal Offices worldwide: Japan Nodal Office is one of them. The number of world's Nodal offices has increased from four to seven since the current IPO started in Bern, Switzerland in 2016. The Sapporo Nodal Office, established in 2006 as the first nodal office of GLP, changed its name as Japan Nodal Office with its new structure of a consortium of Japanese universities, including Hokkaido University, Rakuno Gakuen University, Tohoku University, University of Tsukuba, Kyoto University and Hiroshima University.

The overall goal of the Japan Nodal Office is to improve understanding of the causal processes of vulnerability, the quality of coping capacities linked to different perturbations, and the role of governance in bolstering resilience. The tasks of the Japan Nodal Office are not limited to national or regional concerns, but this special issue focuses on Asian issues.

Asia is extremely important to study because of the combination of its rapidly expanding population and decreasing population depending on the countries and regions. Japan's GLP community is responsible in addressing challenges in land change science as a transitional country from increasing population to decreasing population, and as a leading country of accumulated research knowledge and experiences in hazard issues.

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